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NEWS RELEASE

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Rhode Island Improves Ranking in Quality Counts Report on Education State rises from rank of 31st in 2011 to rank of 20th

Rhode Island ranks 20th among all states and the District of Columbia in the 2012 Quality Counts report on key education indicators, policy efforts, and outcomes.

The ranking is a dramatic improvement from previous years. Rhode was ranked 31st among the states in Quality Counts 2011. The improved rankings are largely the result of new initiatives to improve educator quality and of significant improvements last year on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or “The Nation’s Report Card.”

“I want to congratulate Rhode Island educators and students for their hard work, which has lifted our ranking on the annual Quality Counts report,” said Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist. “The Quality Counts 2012 report recognizes the importance of key initiatives in our strategic plan, *Transforming Education in Rhode Island*, as well as the dramatic improvements our students have made over the past four years in mathematics and reading.”

[Quality Counts](#), an annual publication from the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center and Education Week released today (January 12), ranks states in five areas:

Chance for Success. Rhode Island ranks 19th with a letter grade of B-. This area includes factors on parental education, family income, and NAEP results.

K-12 Achievement. Rhode Island ranks 19th with a letter grade of C-. Rhode Island improved dramatically, from a rank of 32nd, because of significant improvements on NAEP, including percent proficient, percent advanced, and closing achievement gaps between student groups.

Standards, Assessments, and Curriculum. Rhode Island ranks 29th with a letter grade of B. Rhode Island improved slightly since the previous report.

The Teaching Profession. Rhode Island ranks 27th with a letter grade of C-. Rhode Island improved significantly from a rank of 38th in the previous report, gaining many points because of the educator-evaluation system that is being implemented statewide in all districts.

School Finance. Rhode Island ranks 5th with a letter grade of B+, down from a rank of 2nd last year. This ranking recognizes the generous support in Rhode Island for public education.

The overall grade for Rhode Island is a C+, though only 9 states received a higher letter grade and only one state (Maryland) received the highest grade, a B+.

“This report shows that we are improving across the board in regard to policies, practices, and results, though we have a long way to go to achieve our goals,” said Commissioner Gist. “Let’s continue working together to make our schools America’s best.”

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